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November 10, 1998

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**Legal Staff  
International Division**

Mr. Richard B. Lazarus  
Ms. Sally Gardner-Lane  
Box PCT  
PCT Legal Office  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/029,401, Filed February 19, 1998, as U.S. National Phase of International Application No. PCT/DE96/02658, International Filing Date and Priority Date 19 June, 1996, for: MULTICOMPONENT SYSTEM FOR USE WITH DETERGENT SUBSTANCES

Dear Mr. Lazarus and Ms. Gardner-Lane:

Thank you for your letter of October 29, 1998, responding to my status request letter dated July 27, 1998.

Your letter indicates that a copy of the underlying International Application No. PCT/DE96/02658 has not been received by the U.S. Designated/Elected Office. According to our file, we submitted a copy of such application attached to the Transmittal Letter filed on February 19, 1998. Of the published PCT application (WO97/48786), only the printed cover sheets and the International Search Report were submitted with our U.S. national filing; the copy of the application itself included with the filing was not intended to be treated as a copy of the published application but instead was intended to be treated as a copy of the original international application so as to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2).

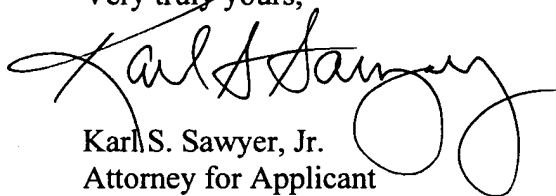
For sake of completeness, however, the applicant is submitting herewith a new copy of International Application No. PCT/DE96/02658 to provide the copy thereof required under Section 371(c)(2).

In case the DO/EO/US is waiting on an official certified copy of the international application to be transmitted by the International Bureau, please advise the undersigned immediately so that an appropriate copy can be obtained from the International Bureau.

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As the file in the DO/EO/US will reflect, a translation of the international application and an oath/declaration by the inventor have not yet been submitted by the applicant, since the applicant is still waiting for a notification calling for these items pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR Section 1.494(c). The applicant assumes that it should continue to hold these items for later filing until after the question of an appropriate copy of the international application has been satisfied. If the applicant's understanding on this issue is incorrect, please advise the undersigned attorney for the applicant immediately.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Karl S. Sawyer, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicant

KSS:dh  
Enclosures  
cc: Herr Dietrich von Creytz